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CIB Soviet Division

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Noted by RCI  
12/22/53

Ambassador Bohlen Reports Moscow's Answer to President Eisenhower's

Speech: Ambassador Bohlen reports that the statement of the Soviet

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government on President Eisenhower's speech con-  
stitutes acceptance of the proposal for talks

but that the Kremlin expects further clarification of the substantive proposals, for an international atomic energy agency. During the talks, the USSR will present its own proposal, for a commitment from the participants, to be reinforced by strict international control, that they will not use atomic or other weapons of mass destruction. The Soviet statement emphasizes that this commitment would be the first important step toward the abolition of atomic weapons.

Bohlen stated that in the body of the document the president's substantive proposal received a negative response on the grounds that only a small <sup>of</sup> portion fissionable material would be turned over to the proposed body and that there was no provision limiting the use of atomic weapons and therefore the atomic race would not be halted.

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Comment: The ~~S~~oviet statement gives no hint that Moscow intends to go further than its previous proposals in the UN or that the USSR is prepared to accept an effective plan for international control, inspection or ownership of atomic or thermonuclear installations.

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